



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

## *McLean Center for the Study of Culture & Values*

A special research project

## **Understanding the Signs of Our Times: Philosophical and Theological Perspectives**

in collaboration with  
**University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany**  
**Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy**

The current pandemic felt by the entire globe has brought not only deep anxieties and fears but also profound quests and search for root causes and answers for our challenging situations – socio-political, cultural, ecological, etc. In order to understand the uniqueness and specificity of our times and to look for some resources that may help us deepen our understanding, this special research project intends to explore the philosophical-theological writings of a special figure, Romano Guardini, one of most important intellectuals of the Catholic tradition in the 20th century.

The goal is not just to focus on Guardini himself or one particular religion but to look into urgent issues and challenges the entire humanity is facing today. Guardini's philosophical and theological insights may provide us with a specific perspective to study and diagnose the contemporary conundrums and to inspire us to develop new insights and thoughts compatible and corresponding to the complex and globalized world in our times.

This special research project will focus on four important issues: the crisis of the modern world, the impact of technology, morality and spirituality. Hence, a set of online seminars will study four most important works written by Guardini: (1) *The End of the Modern World*, (2) *Letters from Lake Como*, (3) *The Virtues: On Forms of Moral Life* and (4) *Spirit of Liturgy*. (Further bibliography related to each topic will be provided during each seminar.)

The project will be coordinated by:



**William A. Barbieri**  
CUA McLean Center



**Yvonne Dohna Schlobitten**  
Pontifical Gregorian University



**João J. Vila-Chã**



**Holger Zaborowski**  
University of Erfurt

## Schedules for Online Seminars

### Seminar I. The Crisis of the Modern World

October 18 and November 1, 2021 (6.00pm-7.30pm Germany Time)

*The End of the Modern World*

(directed by Holger Zaborowski, Professor of Philosophy, University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany)

### Seminar II. The Impact of Technology

March 7 and 21, 2022 (TBD)

*Letters from Lake Como*

(directed by João J. Vila-Chã, Professor of Philosophy, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)

### Seminar III. Aesthetics

July 7 and 21, 2022 (TBD)

*Guardini's Aesthetics*

(directed by Yvonne Dohna Schlobitten, Professor of Theological Aesthetics, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)

### Seminar IV. Morality

October 10 and 17, 2022 (TBD)

*The Virtues: On Forms of Moral Life*

(directed by William A. Barbieri, Professor of Ethics, McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values, Catholic University of America, Washington DC, USA)

### Seminar V. Spirituality

March 6 and 20, 2023 (TBD)

*Spirit of Liturgy*

(directed by Holger Zaborowski & Yvonne Dohna Schlobitten)

## Schedules for In-persons Conferences

November 24-25, 2023

*Modernity, Culture and Person*

University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany

March 4-5, 2024

*Spirituality and Religious Experience*

Gregorian University, Rome, Italy

Those who are interested in this special research project visit [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org) for further information and application or contact [cua-rvp@cua.edu](mailto:cua-rvp@cua.edu).

**The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP)**

**Gibbons Hall B20, 620 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC, 20064**

**Telephone: 202/319-6089; Email: [cua-rvp@cua.edu](mailto:cua-rvp@cua.edu); Website: [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org)**